

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12, and 13 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A spacing member to be attached to a process cartridge, which includes: a photosensitive drum; a charging roller adapted to contact ~~with said the~~ photosensitive drum positioned and configured to charge the ~~for charging said~~ photosensitive drum; and a shutter member configured and positioned to cover an ~~for covering the~~ exposure portion, where ~~said the~~ photosensitive drum is exposed from a cartridge frame, and which can be mounted in and demounted from a main body of an electrophotographic image forming apparatus, said spacing member comprising:

a spacing portion configured and positioned to space the ~~for spacing said~~ photosensitive drum and ~~said the~~ charging roller apart when said spacing member is attached to ~~said the~~ process cartridge;

a stopper portion configured and positioned to prevent the ~~for preventing said~~ shutter member from retracting from a protection position for covering ~~said the~~ exposure portion, when said spacing member is attached to ~~said the~~ process cartridge; and

a protective portion configured and positioned to cover ~~for covering~~ a positioning portion, which positions ~~said the~~ process cartridge in ~~said the~~ main body of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus when ~~said the~~ process cartridge is mounted in ~~said the~~ main body of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus, when said spacing member is attached to ~~said the~~ process cartridge.

2. (Currently Amended) A spacing member according to claim 1, further comprising a grip portion configured and positioned for an operator to remove said spacing member from ~~said~~ the process cartridge, wherein said grip portion is arranged ~~on an~~ upstream of side of said spacing member in an insertion direction in ~~direction,~~ in which said stopper portion is inserted into ~~said~~ the process cartridge, when said spacing member is to be attached to ~~said~~ the process cartridge.

3. (Currently Amended) A spacing member according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said protective portion comes into contact with ~~said~~ the main body of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus to prevent ~~said~~ the process cartridge from being mounted in ~~said~~ the main body of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus, when ~~said~~ the process cartridge is to be mounted in ~~said~~ the main body of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus without detaching said spacing member.

4. (Currently Amended) A spacing member according to claim 3, wherein said protective portion covers ~~the~~ righthand and lefthand bearings of ~~said~~ the process cartridge which comprise ~~as~~ the positioning portion, which positions ~~said~~ the process cartridge in ~~said~~ the main body of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus when ~~said~~ the process cartridge is mounted in ~~said~~ the main body of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus.

5. (Original) A spacing member according to claim 4, wherein said protective portion has a half-moon shape.

6. (Currently Amended) A spacing member according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the directions in which ~~of~~ said spacing member is to be attached to and detached from ~~said the~~ process cartridge are generally perpendicular to the moving direction of ~~said the~~ shutter member.

7. (Currently Amended) A process cartridge detachably mountable to a main body of an electrophotographic image forming apparatus, comprising:

(i) a photosensitive drum;

(ii) a charging roller adapted to contact with said photosensitive drum to charge for ~~charging~~ said photosensitive drum;

(iii) a shutter member configured and positioned to cover an ~~for covering~~ the exposure portion, where said photosensitive drum is exposed from a cartridge frame; and

(iv) a spacing member, wherein said spacing member includes:

a spacing portion configured and positioned to space ~~for spacing~~ said photosensitive drum and said charging roller apart;

a stopper portion configured and positioned to prevent ~~for preventing~~ said shutter member from retracting from a protection position for covering ~~said the~~ exposure portion; and

a protective portion configured and positioned to cover ~~for covering~~ a positioning portion, which positions said process cartridge in ~~said a~~ main body of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus when said process cartridge is mounted in ~~said the~~ main body of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus.

8. (Currently Amended) A process cartridge according to claim 7, wherein said spacing member further includes a grip portion for an operator to remove said spacing member from said process cartridge, wherein said grip portion is arranged on upstream side of said spacing member in of an insertion direction, in which said stopper portion is inserted into said process cartridge, when said spacing member is to be attached to said process cartridge.

9. (Currently Amended) A process cartridge according to claim 7 or 8, wherein said protective portion comes into contact with ~~said apparatus~~ the main body to prevent said process cartridge from being mounted in ~~said apparatus~~ the main body, when said process cartridge is to be mounted in ~~said apparatus~~ main body without detaching said spacing member.

10. (Currently Amended) A process cartridge according to claim 9, wherein said protective portion covers ~~the~~ righthand and lefthand bearings of said process cartridge which comprise as the positioning portion, which positions said process cartridge in ~~said~~ the main body of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus when said process cartridge is mounted in ~~said~~ the main body of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus.

11. (Original) A process cartridge according to claim 10, wherein said protective portion has a half-moon shape.

12. (Currently Amended) A process cartridge according to claim 7 or 8, wherein the directions in which ~~of~~ said spacing member is to be attached to and detached from said process cartridge are generally perpendicular to the moving direction of said shutter member.

13. (Currently Amended) An electrophotographic image forming apparatus to which a process cartridge is detachably mountable to a main body of ~~the~~ said electrophotographic image forming apparatus, ~~the~~ said electrophotographic image forming apparatus comprising:

(i) a mounting portion configured and positioned to ~~for~~ removably mount ~~mounting a~~ the process cartridge including a photosensitive drum, a charging roller adapted to contact ~~with said~~ the photosensitive drum and configured and positioned to charge the ~~for charging said~~ photosensitive drum, and a shutter member configured and positioned to cover an ~~for covering~~ the exposure portion, where ~~said~~ the photosensitive drum is exposed from a cartridge frame; and

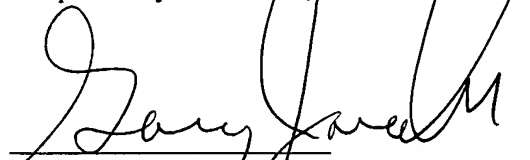
(ii) a preventing portion configured and positioned to contact ~~for contacting with~~ a spacing member to prevent ~~said~~ the process cartridge from being mounted in said mounting portion without detaching the spacing member; wherein ~~said~~ the spacing member includes a ~~includes:~~ a spacing portion configured and positioned to space the ~~for spacing said~~ photosensitive drum and ~~said~~ the charging roller ~~roller;~~ apart, a stopper portion configured and positioned to ~~prevent the~~ ~~for preventing said~~ shutter member from retracting from a protection position for covering ~~said~~ the exposure ~~portion, and~~ ~~portion;~~ and a protective portion for covering a positioning portion, which positions ~~said~~ the process cartridge in ~~said~~ the main body of ~~the~~ said electrophotographic image forming apparatus when ~~said~~ the process cartridge is mounted in ~~said~~ the main body of ~~the~~ said electrophotographic image forming apparatus.

Remarks

Figures 2, 3, and 5-10 have been amended to remove reference characters not discussed in the specification. Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12, and 13 and the specification have been amended solely to correct minor and typographical errors therein. As a result, this amendment is needed for proper protection and disclosure of the invention and would require no substantial amount of additional work on the part of the Office. Accordingly, this amendment satisfies the criteria for entry of MPEP §714.16 and such entry is respectfully solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants
Gary M. Jacobs
Registration No. 28,861

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
GMJ:ayr

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IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please amend Figures 2, 3, and 5-10 as follows and as shown on the enclosed corrected formal drawings of these figures.

In Figure 2:

Please delete reference numerals “17”, “18”, and “19” and the lead lines therefrom.

In Figure 3:

Please delete reference numeral “151” and the lead line therefrom.

In Figure 5:

Please delete reference numeral “301” and reference characters “224a” and the lead lines therefrom.

In Figure 6:

Please delete reference characters “224a” and the lead line therefrom.

In Figure 7:

Please delete reference characters “224a” and the lead line therefrom.

In Figure 8:

Please delete reference characters “140a” and the lead line therefrom.

In Figure 9:

Please delete reference numerals “701” and “704” and the lead lines therefrom.

In Figure 10:

Please delete reference numerals “353”, “354”, and “355” and the lead lines therefrom.